

REMARKS

Request for Continuing Examination

A Request For Continuing Examination (RCE) is filed herewith.

Claim Status:

Claims 15 to 17 and 20 to 24 are pending. All other claims have been cancelled.

The Wynn Rejections:

The Examiner rejected the pending claims as being either anticipated by newly cited Wynne, or obvious in view of Wynne in combination with Carpenter.

The Presently Claimed Invention:

Independent claim 15 has now been amended to set forth:

“..... a plurality of bands extending from lateral margins disposed at opposite side edges of said opposite lateral regions.....”.

This claimed feature can be seen in Applicants' Fig. 1 where bands 21, 23, 25 and 27 extend from lateral margin 8 disposed at the side edge of lateral region 6. Similarly, bands 20, 22, 24 and 26 extend from opposite lateral margin 7 disposed at the side edge of lateral region 5.

Thus, as can be seen in Fig. 1, one set of Applicants' bands extends from the left **side** edge of the device and an opposite set of bands extends from the right **side** edge of the device.

In the presently claimed invention, the bands are attached to, and extend from, **the sides** of the device.

The Wynn System:

Wynn is a joint immobilizer. It is designed to wrap around a joint to prevent the joint from moving. (See Wynn's Figs. 7 and 8).

As seen in Wynn's Fig. 1, each of its straps 42a, 42b, 42c and 42d all **extend from the center** of its device. (I.E. straps 42a, 42b, 42c and 42d are attached to, and extend from, the central longitudinal connector 32).

The Wynn System Distinguished:

In the present invention, the bands extend from the *sides* of the device.

In contrast, in Wynne, the bands extend from the *center* of the device.

This distinction is important for the following reason.

The present invention is designed to continuously apply pressure to a limb as the limb changes in diameter over time without having to alter the device itself. In contrast, Wynn's device would not allow smooth continuous compression as the limb changes in diameter, as follows.

With the Wynn device, if the limb expands in diameter, the inner layer would simply gap apart (i.e.: edges 8 and 10 would be pulled apart). Also, Wynn's bands 42 would not allow for complete compression over the limb due to their spacing and center positioning. Moreover, Wynn's device would not accommodate a limb of shrinking diameter if edges 8 and 10 were already in abutting contact with one another prior to such shrinkage.

Secondly, having the Applicant's bands extend from the lateral margins (i.e.: side edges) of the device advantageously creates tension *throughout the entire garment*. This results in smooth, continuous compression in the device. In contrast, in Wynn, tension is only created in bands 42, and in those portions of the inner layer (body 4) to which bands 42 are directly attached. Thus, Wynn's device would not allow for continuous complete compression.

The present invention is advantageous in treating edema disorders in which pressure is maintained on a limb as the limb changes in diameter (in response to the pressure treatment). In contrast, Wynn is directed to immobilizing a joint and is in no way adapted to dealing with a limb that is changing in diameter. The present invention maintains continuous pressure on a

limb of changing volume by having its bands extend from its side edges (i.e.: lateral margins 7 and 8).

In view of the forgoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the present obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

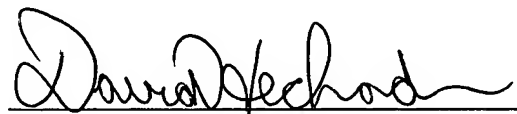
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The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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